



WaterSaver Newsletter

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December 2014



The Power of Red

Red. It's the color of the season and you can find it in gift wrap, bows, ornaments, holly berries, Santa's suit, candy canes, candles, holiday lights, etc.

Traditionally, red is associated with energy, danger, strength, power, dominance, as well as passion, desire, and love. While it's great for decorating inside, use red sparingly in landscapes; a little does a great job to liven up a yard, create a focal point, or to draw attention away from an eyesore. Be careful though as too much can be overpowering. Here are some low water use "reds" to create impact in your landscape.

Red Eremophila - [*Eremophila maculata*](#). Begins blooming in January with vibrant fuchsia colored flowers and is in full bloom by Valentine's day.

Baja Red Fairy Duster - [*Calliandra californica*](#). Flowers have masses of red stamens that hummingbirds relish.

Bat Faced Cuphea - [*Cuphea llavea*](#). This small shrub has lush green foliage with blooms that are red. The "faces" are actually purple parts of petals which look like bat faces!

Coral Fountain - [*Russelia equisetiformis*](#). Weeping, nearly leafless, bright green branches with tubular 1" coral-red flowers appearing in the warm months. Attracts hummingbirds.

Hummingbird Trumpet - [*Zauschneria latifolia*](#). This native looks its best planted in partial or light shade. Hummingbirds love the tubular, scarlet flowers which bloom during the warm months.

Details on these and more "reds" can be found [here](#).

If you have questions about your home landscape or water use, contact the Water Conservation Office at conserve@chandleraz.gov, call 480-782-3580 or visit www.chandleraz.gov/water.

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Upcoming Events

December 5 - 30

[Noche de las Luminarias](#)

December 6

[Chandler Parade of Lights](#)

December 6

[Tumbleweed Tree Lighting](#)

December 4, 11, 18

[Chandler Farmers Market](#)

December 12-13

[Glendale Glitters](#)

December 13

[Learn Basic Gourd Art](#)

December 18

[Sonoran Sunset Series](#)

December 19

[Chandler Art Walk](#)

January 17

[East Valley Citrus Clinic](#)

See complete schedule at

www.chandleraz.gov/water



Monthly Watering Advice

December

December and January are our coldest months, and plant water usage is at its lowest point. Keep in mind that too much water on plants encourages lush, active growth that is more prone to frost damage. Plants that are dehydrated or water stressed also incur more damage. Recommendations below are for plants that are established in the landscape (in the ground about 2 years).

Lawn watering:

Summer grass (Bermuda) - once every 30 days

Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - once every 14 days

If trees and shrubs are on the same valve:

Desert Adapted - once every 35 days

High Water Use - once every 18 days

Tree watering:

Desert Adapted - once every 45 days

High Water Use - once every 21 days

Shrub watering:

Desert Adapted - once every 30 days

High Water Use - once every 14 days

Groundcover and vine watering:

Desert Adapted - once every 28 days

High Water Use - once every 14 days

Cacti and succulent watering - if needed

Annuals watering - once every 10 days

Wildflower watering - once every 15 days

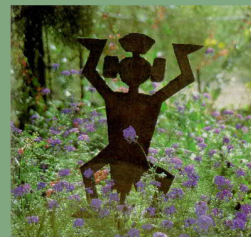
Reduce your landscape watering 30 to 50 percent by adjusting your irrigation each season. "[Landscape Watering by the Numbers: A Guide for the Arizona Desert](#)" will help you determine how much water to apply and how long to run your system.

Request a free copy at www.chandlerzaz.gov/water or visit the interactive web site at www.wateruseitwisely.com.

Bonus tip: To get up-to-date local weather and frost warning info, visit the National Weather Service Phoenix area web site at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/psr/>

Note: These recommendations are general guidelines only and may need to be modified for your specific site conditions.

Ask A Garden Goddess



My trees are losing their leaves. What can I do with them?

Fallen leaves supply an almost endless supply of nutrients like nitrogen, potassium and magnesium which are essential to plants. Plus, as they break down they provide food and energy to organisms like earthworms.

A simple solution to Autumn leaves is to mow them and leave them on your lawn. Mowing cuts them into tiny pieces creating a mulch that settles on the soil where it decomposes quickly, leading to a healthier, thicker lawn and reducing your need for fertilizers by as much as 25%.

If mowing isn't an option consider collecting and [composting](#) them. This is a great way to reduce landfill input and create organic fertilizer.

Email your question to GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov





Water Wise Tips

Grandpa always said "It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see."

During this holiday season, you may watch or participate with family members preparing traditional meals. The kitchen is the heart of the home; laughter, conversation, and satisfied appetites can be inspired by the home-cooked favorites.

What you may not see is what goes down the kitchen sink. Water that goes down the drain is collected, treated and cleaned by the City and then reused on golf courses, HOA common areas, or allowed to soak into the soil in groundwater recharge ponds.

Along with water, other materials are carried down the drain as well - such as oils, grease and fat. These can build up and over time completely clog pipes.

No one wants a plumbing emergency during the holidays or any other time so preventing pipe-clogging materials is imperative.

Read the Water Use It Wisely Blog - [Grease is the Word](#) - for tips on what to do with gravy, butter, cheese, cooking oil, etc.



If you have any questions on ways to save water in your home or kitchen, contact the Chandler Water Conservation office at 480-782-3800 or email conserve@chandleraz.gov.

Plant of the Month

Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*)

Decking the halls with these colorful plants is one of the most familiar holiday traditions. The showy colored parts of poinsettias that most people think of as the flowers are actually colored bracts (modified leaves).



Joel Roberts Poinsett discovered the plant in Mexico in 1828 where they are perennial shrubs that can grow to 15 feet tall. Today, California is the leading producer of Poinsettias in the United States.

To keep them looking their best, water frequently but don't drown them. Keep the plant out of drafts, hot or cold and place the them in good light inside the house.

[Poinsettias](#) are among the most appreciated living plants exchanged during the holiday season. However, some people with latex allergies may have a skin reaction (most likely to the milky sap) after touching the leaves. Many common holiday plants (and others) are poisonous to people and pets. Read on for information from the University of Arizona [College of Pharmacy](#).



For more landscape choices and design ideas to help you create a vibrant, attractive, colorful low water use landscape try [Water Wise Landscaping in Chandler](#).

Water Conservation E-News

This monthly newsletter will help you create stunning landscapes that use less water. Each issue is packed with personalized watering advice, notices about upcoming events, timely tips to maintain a healthy landscape, plus ways to reduce your water bill. Read past issues here - [WaterSaver newsletter](#).

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Water Conservation Staff

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The WaterSaver newsletter is published by Chandler's Water Conservation Office and is just one more way we're providing Chandler utility customers with inspiring ideas at a reduced cost.

You have received this newsletter because you requested a subscription, asked to receive information from us, or have been identified by Water Conservation as someone who could benefit from the information.

Questions or comments? We want to hear from you! Contact us at conserve@chandleraz.gov



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